

IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. ~ 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A computer program product stored on a computer recordable medium for controlling a computer, said computer program product comprising:

- (i) scan request receiving logic operable to receive a request to perform an on-access malware scan upon a computer file to which access is to be made;
- (ii) scan dividing logic operable to divide said on-access malware scan into a plurality of tasks;
- (iii) task issuing logic operable to issue said plurality of tasks to be performed by a plurality of different computers; and
- (iv) result collating logic operable to collate a plurality of task results corresponding to said plurality of tasks and received from said plurality of different computers to form a scan result corresponding to said on-access malware scan;

wherein said scan dividing logic divides said on-access malware scan in response to a complexity metric exceeding a predetermined threshold, where the complexity metric is dependent on at least one parameter;

wherein the complexity metric is dependent on a plurality of parameters including a computer file type, a level of nesting of embedded computer files, an initial attempt to scan said computer file which exceeded a predetermined time, and a level of utilization of a local processor.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer program product stored on a computer recordable medium for controlling a computer, said computer program product comprising:

- (i) scan request receiving logic operable to receive a request to perform an on-access malware scan upon a computer file to which access is to be made;
- (ii) scan dividing logic operable to divide said on-access malware scan into a plurality of tasks;

(iii) task issuing logic operable to issue said plurality of tasks to be performed by a plurality of different computers; and

(iv) result collating logic operable to collate a plurality of task results corresponding to said plurality of tasks and received from said plurality of different computers to form a scan result corresponding to said on-access malware scan;

wherein said scan dividing logic divides said on-access malware scan in response to a complexity metric exceeding a predetermined threshold, where the complexity metric is dependent on at least one parameter;

wherein an amount of said complexity metric that exceeds said predetermined threshold determines a number of tasks into which said on-access malware scan is divided.

50.-51.(Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said computer file into a plurality of component computer files to be separately scanned as said plurality of tasks.

53. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 52, wherein said computer file contains one or more embedded computer files which are further divided out as component computer files.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 53, wherein said computer file is one of the following computer file types: OLE2, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, RAR, ACE, JAR, ARC, LHA, LZH, ICE and Stuffit.

55. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said on-access malware scan into a plurality of on-access malware scans for identifying different properties of said computer file, said plurality of on-access malware scans being separately performed as said plurality of tasks.

plurality of on-access malware scans for identifying different properties of said computer file, said plurality of on-access malware scans being separately performed as said plurality of tasks.

63. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 62, wherein said plurality of tasks each seek to further identify different portions of one of a cryptographic analysis and an emulation analysis.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said on-access malware scan of said computer file seeks to identify one or more of:

- (i) a computer virus;
- (ii) a Trojan computer program;
- (iii) a worm computer program;
- (iv) a banned computer program; and
- (v) an e-mail containing banned content.

65. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein one or more of said tasks are further divided into sub-tasks.

56. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 55, wherein said plurality of tasks each seek to further identify different portions of one of a cryptographic analysis and an emulation analysis.

57. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein said on-access malware scan of said computer file seeks to identify one or more of:

- (i) a computer virus;
- (ii) a Trojan computer program;
- (iii) a worm computer program;
- (iv) a banned computer program; and
- (v) an e-mail containing banned content.

58. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 48, wherein one or more of said tasks are further divided into sub-tasks.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said computer file into a plurality of component computer files to be separately scanned as said plurality of tasks.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 59, wherein said computer file contains one or more embedded computer files which are further divided out as component computer files.

61. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 60, wherein said computer file is one of the following computer file types: OLE2, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, RAR, ACE, JAR, ARC, LHA, LZH, ICE and Stuffit.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 49, wherein said scan dividing logic further divides said on-access malware scan into a